

**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn[Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov]  
**From:** Ostrander, David  
**Sent:** Mon 9/28/2015 9:29:24 PM  
**Subject:** RE: decision points

I recall S. Ute also had river closures. Tom Johnson is head of the environmental department and he may be able to respond fairly quickly with info if you want to reach out to him.

Johnson, Tom [tojohns@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:tojohns@southernute-nsn.gov)

I will keep looking for info on S. Ute.

**From:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 3:26 PM  
**To:** Ostrander, David  
**Subject:** RE: decision points

Just found San Juan County, NM will reply back to all on last message and send whatever else I can find.

Laura Jenkins

Media Officer

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**From:** Ostrander, David  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 3:22 PM  
**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Subject:** RE: decision points

I don't think his message was clear, so if you can find the NM info that is helpful.

**From:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 3:21 PM  
**To:** Ostrander, David  
**Subject:** RE: decision points

Sorry, I just reread your note...should have been more complete in my response. I understood Shaun to say R9 had responded with info on Navajo Nation. The email he sent didn't include any references to R6 jurisdictions but I'll research that and send ASAP.

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**From:** Ostrander, David  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 3:16 PM  
**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Subject:** RE: decision points

Are R6 and 9 doing the NM and Navajo information on closures?

**From:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 2:54 PM  
**To:** McGrath, Shaun  
**Cc:** Ostrander, David; Card, Joan; Barry, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: decision points

Shaun:

Below is what I've been able to find so far....couldn't find anything online specific to Southern Ute or Ute Mountain but will keep searching if someone recalls them issuing something. I checked Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Indian Health Service websites, along with general good searches, but nothing popped.

Hope this helps. Please let me know if you want me to keep researching.

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On what date did jurisdictions (i.e., counties, states, tribes, etc.) make decisions to lift restrictions on the Animas and San Juan Rivers?

**August 12, 2015:**

**Colorado Department of Health and Environment notified the City of Durango that public water systems were authorized to open their intake structures.**

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Drinking-Water-FAQ-09-02-15.pdf>

**August 13, 2015:**

<http://www.deq.utah.gov/Topics/Water/goldkingmine/docs/2015/08Aug/SovSJRDData81315.pdf>

**Utah Department of Health Statement of Data Evaluation**

Estimated recreational exposure dosages fall below health-based guidelines for these contaminants. Therefore, the EEP currently finds that exposure to the contaminants of the San Juan River tested on August 10th, 2015 by UDEQ are not expected to result in adverse health effects for people recreating in the waters, nor for livestock or crops watered by the San Juan River. The EEP does recommend that recreational users carry their own drinking water and not rely on filtering or purifying river waters.

**August 14, 2015:**

**Update on Local Response to Gold King Mine and Animas River Impacts - Sheriff Smith Opens Recreation on the River in La Plata County**

[https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Animas\\_Sheriff\\_Opens\\_River.pdf](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Animas_Sheriff_Opens_River.pdf)

Based on this statement from the state health department, Sheriff Sean Smith has made the decision to open the river to recreational use with the attached health advisory from the state health department. Sheriff Smith said, "My primary concern is the public health and safety of our community. In an abundance of caution, with the consultation of all our partner agencies, I issued the order to close the river to recreational uses on Thursday, August 6. With the release of preliminary results from the state health department and its accompanying recommendation, I am opening our river for recreation effective Friday, August 14, 2015 at noon with the health advisory."

### **San Juan County concurrence w/CDPHE on lifting recreational restrictions**

[https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Animas\\_River\\_Closure\\_Poster.pdf](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Animas_River_Closure_Poster.pdf)

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has collected and analyzed water quality and sediment from the Animas River. The data indicates that the river has returned to stable conditions that are not a concern for human health during typical recreational exposure. There will be some discoloration of the water when the sediment is disturbed, this discoloration does not pose an immediate health risk. The San Juan Basin Health Department concurs with the state health department findings, and advises that there are no adverse health effects from exposure to the water and sediment during normal recreational use (incidental or limited exposure). The San Juan Basin Health Department advises the public to avoid areas with orange sediment or discolored standing water. Further, anyone coming in contact with any orange sediment or discolored standing water should wash with soap and water.

### **Statement from Liane Jollon, San Juan Basin Health Executive Director regarding the Animas River reopening and health advisory**

<http://sjbhd.org/public-health-news/gold-king-mine-incident/>

San Juan Basin Health cares about your health and we acknowledge our responsibility to protect you. We believe the EPA, The Federal Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment have all combined forces with local independent experts and community non-profits. Together there was a rigorous process to ensure your health and safety. Right now I have complete confidence in this decision. Local public health is loyal only to getting it right for you. We will continue to follow this issue very closely. Through the recovery you will continue to hear from us. We cannot do this without you. Please let us know what you need and what your concerns are through our website [www.sjbhd.org](http://www.sjbhd.org).

***Animas River Health Advisory (Issued in Conjunction with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment)***

<http://sjbhd.org/animas-river-health-advisory/>

The San Juan Basin Health Department concurs with the state health department findings, and advises that there are no adverse health effects from exposure to the water and sediment during normal recreational use (incidental or limited exposure). The San Juan Basin Health Department advises the public to avoid areas with orange sediment or discolored standing water. Further, anyone coming in contact with any orange sediment or discolored standing water should wash with soap and water.

**September 28, 2015:**

San Juan County Public Health Department

<http://www.sanjuancountycolorado.us/>

Public Health Advisory Remaining in Effect: It is strongly advised to refrain from contact with Cement Creek and the Animas River below the confluence of Cement Creek until further notice.

Laura Jenkins

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**From:** McGrath, Shaun  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 2:23 PM  
**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Subject:** RE: decision points

Laura,

Checking in to see where you are on this request. Looks like the sooner we can get it the better.

thanks

**From:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 11:00 AM  
**To:** McGrath, Shaun; Ostrander, David  
**Cc:** Card, Joan  
**Subject:** RE: decision points

Shaun: Will do!

David: I'm checking each website and will send you a list of notices/dates ASAP.

Laura Jenkins

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**From:** McGrath, Shaun  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 10:59 AM  
**To:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn; Ostrander, David  
**Cc:** Card, Joan  
**Subject:** Fwd: decision points

Laura and Dave

Can you please coordinate on response for R8?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Curry, Ron" <[Curry.Ron@epa.gov](mailto:Curry.Ron@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** September 28, 2015 at 9:24:46 AM MDT  
**To:** "Fritz, Matthew" <[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Cheatham, Reggie" <[cheatham.reggie@epa.gov](mailto:cheatham.reggie@epa.gov)>, "Natarajan, Nitin" <[Natarajan.Nitin@epa.gov](mailto:Natarajan.Nitin@epa.gov)>, "Stanislaus, Mathy" <[Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov](mailto:Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov)>, "McGrath, Shaun" <[McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov](mailto:McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov)>, "Blumenfeld, Jared" <[BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV](mailto:BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV)>, "Tulis, Dana" <[Tulis.Dana@epa.gov](mailto:Tulis.Dana@epa.gov)>  
**Subject: Re: decision points**

In NM

August 13th ban on domestic well use lifted

August 14th ditch flushing began

August 15th Animas River use ok

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2015, at 8:54 AM, Fritz, Matthew <[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov)> wrote:

Good morning everyone,



Could somebody – possibly IC – gathering the following information”

On what date did jurisdictions (i.e., counties, states, tribes, etc.) make decisions to lift restrictions on the Animas and San Juan Rivers?

La Plata county lifted the restrictions on...for (types of uses)

San Juan county (Colorado) lifted restrictions on...for...

Southern Utes...

State of Colorado – not sure if they had any specific restrictions they were managing

State of New Mexico

State of Utah

Etc.

Thanks.